PETRU LOGA

ARE YOU TRULY

BORN AGAIN?

BIBLICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

ALBA IULIA 2025

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Have you truly experienced the new birth?
Is your life transformed by God or only influenced by people?
Do you live a life of discipleship or are you simply practicing a form of religion?

Discover the answer!
Complete the biblical questionnaire

"Truly, truly I say to you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

Introduction

When we read the Holy Scriptures carefully, we discover that God's plan included not only the creation of heavenly servants, but also a unique being—man—meant to live in a special relationship with Him, as His child and as a brother to the Lord Jesus.

This divine intention is clearly expressed in Genesis 1:26–27, where God says, "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." The same idea appears in Romans 8:29, which shows that "He predestined them to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He might be the firstborn among many brothers." Thus, even before the world was created, God oradained that people would share in His divine nature, being called to become like His Son.

Through Adam's fall, man died spiritually—that is, he was separated from God. This condition of separation brought about the need for restoration and reconciliation with God, made possible only through the saving work of Christ. In His plan—made before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4)—God provided for the spiritual rebirth of sinful humanity.

This plan does not stop at the mere forgiveness of sins; it seeks the complete restoration of the human being and to bring us to the measure of the stature of His Son, as written in Ephesians 4:11–13: "And He gave some … prophets … pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints … till we all come… unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Being born again is therefore an essential threshold in every person's life, marking the beginning of a new existence in which we receive citizenship in the Kingdom of God and begin a journey of drawing near to and becoming like His Son.

This transformation is not merely a moral change, but a profound work of the Holy Spirit, who regenerates the believer's inner being according to the image of Christ, thereby restoring the image of God in man.

The analogy between natural birth and spiritual birth is profound: just as biological life begins through a human seed that carries the parents' genetic code, so spiritual life begins through "the seed of God," which is His Word (Luke 8:11). This seed carries within it the characteristics of God and, when it is received into a good and pure heart, it gives birth to a new being—born of God (Luke 8:15).

This new life is visibly expressed through authentic discipleship—a continual process of transformation through the Word of God. Discipleship is not a later or optional stage, but the natural expression of a genuine new birth. The one who is born of God enters a life of spiritual formation, in which they are taught, corrected, encouraged, and equipped to become increasingly like Christ.

This initial work is the cornerstone of the new life in Christ. Therefore, Satan targets it with strategic intensity. His chief aim is to replace the true birth from God with a counterfeit version that leads to a salvation lacking the deep commitment to walk in the footsteps of Christ.

He knows that once a person is born of God and enters the path of becoming like Christ, it is hard to bring them back to their former darkness. That is why he seeks to corrupt the seed—the Word that brings life—and to replace it with teaching that seems credible, yet lacks the clear call to self-denial and to following as a disciple of Christ. Through this substitution, he aims that from the altered seed there would not be born brothers of the Lord Jesus, but only adherents of a lifeless religion.

He does not assert himself through direct opposition to Christ, but through the selective emphasis of certain biblical truths—such as salvation by faith—without the call to a life of obedience to His teachings. Through this diluted gospel, Satan hides from people **the real need for discipleship—the only way by which human character can be shaped after the character of the Lord Jesus.**

Paul warns in 2 Cor. 11:4: "If someone comes and proclaims another Jesus… or if you receive a different spirit, or a different gospel… you put up with it readily enough!" This diluted gospel is often transmitted even by people who appear sincere yet are deceived—theologians, preachers, or religious leaders who, formed within a setting devoid of the Holy Spirit, perpetuate a Christianity that caters to human desires. They convey a "gospel" adapted so that a person can keep the old life—a superficial new birth in which the seed of God—the Word—is ignored—a faith aligned with religious culture, but which does not lead a person onto the path of discipleship in the righteousness of the Kingdom of God.

Such experiences may seem sincere, may move people emotionally, and may even change behaviors to a certain degree—but they do not regenerate the heart. This form of faith maintains only an appearance of spirituality, offering a diluted standard—a convenient version of the Gospel—that keeps a person from understanding the real demands of the Kingdom. Thus, the original seed is replaced, and the life that results is not from God, but from another source.

The true seed—the Word—not only gives life, but also sustains and transforms. It begets a new being, one who no longer lives under the dominion of sin but increasingly reflects the nature of God. "Whoever is born of God does not sin, because His seed remains in him." (1 John 3:9)

Therefore, the refusal to receive the Word, or the receiving of a falsified version, is a spiritual tragedy. John says of the Lord Jesus, who was the Word: "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." (John 1:11) And Paul adds: "Since you do not receive the Word… you judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life…" (Acts 13:46) At the heart of the new birth stands the pure Word of God. Any distortion, dilution, or substitution of it is a subtle yet devastating strategy, meant to hinder the beginning of life from God.

On closer look, it is easy to see that we live in an increasingly diverse

religious world—where many denominations promote teachings that are mixed or subtly deviated from the pure truth of Scripture. In this context, the danger is not the absence of religion, but the presence of a distorted religion that offers an appearance of spirituality, yet does not produce the new birth.

More and more people come to believe they are born again when, in reality, they have only been adapted to a religious system, influenced by an emotional atmosphere, or convinced by human arguments. This form of religion does not regenerate the heart, does not bring a transformed life, but only maintains a form of godliness devoid of power. In fact, many of us, at the time of our supposed conversion, received the "glasses" of the denomination we belong to, coming to filter everything through human practices and interpretations. Instead of spiritual birth being the result of the will of God, it was shaped by the will of people—by religious influences, social pressures, or emotional contexts. Thus, many end up living for years with an apparently sincere faith yet lacking authenticity, without real victory over sin.

It is fitting to ask ourselves, sincerely: how is it possible that, after years of walking the path of faith, we still persist in the old things which, according to Scripture, categorically separate us from God? If we live in them continually, not accidentally, without the desire to leave them, then we must ask whether our new birth was authentic or only a religious illusion.

Scripture is clear: "those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21). To live for years without victory over sin is to confuse a religious life with a real transformation of the heart.

This reality, painful but frequently encountered, calls us to sincere and profound self-examination. Not to condemn us, but to turn us back to the source of truth—Scripture—and to test the foundation of our faith. It is vital to ask: were we truly born of God, or only of the will of people?

True new birth produces a deep transformation: a hunger for the righteousness of God, a sincere desire to follow Christ with all the heart, and a life lived in discipleship, in obedience, and self-denial. Anything else is only a form without substance—a religion that does not save, but deceives.

To support this process of spiritual introspection, we have prepared a questionnaire that is not merely a simple list of questions, but a sincere invitation to personal examination. It is a tool meant to help us distinguish between the authentic and the counterfeit, between the work of the Spirit and human influence.

This material invites you to a profound reflection on the authenticity of your new birth, your real belonging to the Body of Christ, your daily life in righteousness and peace, as well as your love for Christ and sincere discipleship to Him. The questions in this questionnaire are formulated on the basis of Scripture and address essential aspects of this deep, visible, and ongoing transformation, as described in the Word of God.

The proposed questionnaire seeks to explore, in the context of being born again of God, several essential themes of authentic Christian life, highlighting traits that cannot be produced by human effort:

- **The functioning of the Body of Christ**—a life of mutual service and unity among believers, in which each member fulfills their role in harmony

with the others, as described in Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12.

- **The peace of those who are born again** — not merely an inner state of calm, but the result of a radically different attitude toward opposition and conflict, according to the Lord Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. This peace springs from a submitted heart that chooses not to repay evil with evil, but to overcome evil with good. It is the peace of those who choose to turn the other cheek, go the second mile, bless those who curse them, and pray for those who persecute them (Matthew 5:38–48). Such a way of living is not natural, but a sign of being born of God, of a life transformed by the Holy Spirit. This peace does not depend on the absence of conflicts, but on the presence of obedience to Christ in the midst of them.
- **Practical righteousness** — a life lived in the righteousness that characterizes the Kingdom of God, manifested through real obedience to the commandments of Christ. This righteousness is not limited to theory or declarations, but is expressed through concrete deeds that reflect His character. It should be a visible reality in everyday life, a clear testimony to those around.
- **Authentic discipleship** — an unbroken journey of shaping through the Word of God, in which the believer is formed, corrected, encouraged, and equipped to live like Christ. This is not an optional stage, but a daily call to self-denial and following the Lord Jesus: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

The purpose of this questionnaire is not judgment, but clarity: to understand whether your life truly reflects the work of the Holy Spirit and whether you have experienced the new birth—not as a mere religious affiliation, but as a radical change of heart.

Our goal is to give you the opportunity to make a scriptural, objective, non-denominational analysis of the authenticity of being born of God.

I encourage you to examine each question carefully and choose "Yes" or "No" according to what truly reflects the reality of your life. It is recommended that you do not read the explanations before completing the entire questionnaire, so that your verification of the authenticity of your new birth is as accurate as possible.

After you finish the questionnaire, you will be able to read the biblical explanations for each question. These will help you understand your answers more deeply and discern whether your spiritual birth truly comes from God.

Questionnaire

Belonging to the Body of Christ

1. Do you attend a gathering that consists only of worship programs and a few social activities?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

2. Are you in a church that tolerates worldly people, brothers who live in sin and disobedience?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

3. Are you just an ordinary member in the congregation where you are?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

4. Do you believe that a born-again Christian can be away at work and absent from the Body of Christ for months or even years at a time?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

5. When you were born again, did you have a spiritual parent, as Timothy had Paul?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

6. Do you consider that you experienced the new birth, even though God did not fulfill His part in the relationship with you—He did not assign you a spiritual parent to care for you, and you had to feed only on sermons, like an orphan raised in an institution?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

7. Do you believe that a person can truly be born again if they live alone, without being a member of the Church of Christ? (Colossians 2:19)

☐ Yes / ☐ No

The Peace of God's Kingdom

8. Do you consider it is appropriate for a Christian to resist if someone wants to harm him?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

9. Do you think it is appropriate for a born-again Christian to serve in the military, work in structures such as the police, gendarmerie, or as a security guard (bodyguard), or to swear an oath to defend their country with their life? Would you do this if asked?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

The righteousness of the Kingdom of God

10. Are you hungry and thirsty for the righteousness that is lived in the Kingdom, and do you seek, above all else, His righteousness? (Matthew 6:33)

☐ Yes / ☐ No

11. Do you think it is justified for a born-again Christian not to declare all his income and not to pay his taxes?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

12. Do you believe that a person can be born again even if their life is characterized by serving two masters—that is, a life divided between God and the desire for gain?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

13. Do you think it is appropriate to give gifts or money to doctors and nurses when you are in the hospital?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

14. Is it a way of life for you to constantly drive more than 10 km/h over the legal limit, to transport more people than is permitted in the car's registration certificate, or not to wear a seat belt?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

15. Can a Christian born of God, called to reject the values of the world, consciously expose himself to environments such as public beaches or swimming pools, where the body is exposed and sin is promoted, knowing that these influence the heart and mind and fuel the lusts of the flesh?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

16. Can someone be born again if they constantly live in anger, without this attitude being changed in the image of Christ?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

17. Can a person truly be born again if they do not guard themselves and feed on worldly sources, such as inappropriate content and images commonly found on the internet and television screens, which arouse sinful desires, contrary to the biblical exhortation in Proverbs 4:23: "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life"?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

Things that precede the new birth

18. Was your desire to be saved primarily motivated by the desire to have a share in heaven and escape eternal punishment?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

19. When you heard the Word of the Gospel, which showed you the Lord Jesus as He truly is, were you drawn to the beauty of His character?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

20. If you were attracted by the beauty of the Lord Jesus' character, did He become the most important being in your life, so that you love Him with all your mind, with all your heart, above all else?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

21. Can you say that you have experienced first love—the kind where Lord Jesus and His Word are everything to you, as the Bridegroom of your soul?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

The Life of Discipleship

22. When you made the covenant with God, did you truly deny yourself and joyfully receive all His teaching?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

23. Can you say that as a result of your decision, all things have become new, and the old things have passed away, as it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

24. Following your decision to follow Christ, did you begin your life of discipleship with the central goal of becoming like your Teacher?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

25. When you made this covenant, did you willingly offer yourself and live as a servant of Christ, just as He lived toward His Father? (Philippians 2:7)

☐ Yes / ☐ No

26. Is the verse in 1 John 2:6 being fulfilled in your life? (Whoever says he remains in Him must live as Jesus lived.)

☐ Yes / ☐ No

27. Is every choice, action, and plan of yours subject to the goal of being like Christ?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

Questionnaire responses

Belonging to the Body of Christ

Question 1. Do you attend a gathering that consists only of worship programs and a few social activities?

❌ **Answer: Yes (incorrect) — Explanation:** Attending a church that offers only formal worship and social activities, without life in Christ, means:

- Being satisfied with a form of godliness but without its power (2 Timothy 3:5), that is, a superficial religion, lacking inner transformation.
- Avoiding spiritual responsibility, real fellowship, and confrontation with sin—essential elements of a born-again life.
- Turning the church into a place of emotional comfort rather than a place of edification, maturation, and spiritual ministry. This choice contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture about the Body of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 12:25, Scripture says, "So that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another." Therefore, each member is called to be active, closely connected, and to contribute to the building up of others. To live in isolation or superficially is to have no living connection with the members of the Body, which is incompatible with the work of the Holy Spirit.

A gathering without genuine fellowship, in which the members do not care for one another, does not reflect the living Body of Christ, but only a powerless imitation—a lifeless religious community in which Christ is not truly recognized and followed. Such a body is, in reality, a dead body, in which Christ is not present as Head.

A gathering that is limited to outward forms cannot spiritually nourish a born-again soul, but only kills it spiritually. Being born again produces a real hunger for the Word, for living fellowship, and for a life lived in the light, in the Body of Christ.

A born-again Christian cannot live apart from the living Body of Christ. He is placed by God in the Body to have living fellowship, mutual responsibility, and growth in holiness. The lack of desire to be a member closely connected to the other members is a sign that the Holy Spirit is not truly working in that heart.

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A born-again soul is not satisfied with a gathering that offers only worship programs and social activities, but longs for a living community where Christ is present and active, and His Body functions in unity and love.

This deep desire is a sign of a sensitive conscience and a life transformed by the Holy Spirit, because:

- In Ephesians 4:16, we are told that the Body of Christ is "joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped," and growth comes "through the working of each part in its proper measure."
- In 1 Corinthians 12:25-27, Scripture says, “the members should care for one another” and that “you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a member of it.”

If you are in a living body, where there are spiritual parents, infants, children, and young people in Christ—as John describes in 1 John 2—and where the members care for one another, rebuke one another in love, build one another up, and mature together, this is a sign that the new birth may be genuine.

A born-again Christian is where there is:

- Authentic brotherly fellowship, not just physical presence.
- Discipleship, loving correction, submission, and mutual service.
- Sanctification and spiritual maturity, not just emotional comfort or social activities.

Question 2. Are you in a church that tolerates worldly people, brothers who live in sin and disobedience?

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A born-again Christian cannot have fellowship in a congregation that tolerates sin, compromise, and disobedience to God's Word. Scripture is clear:

- “Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals.” (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- “Purge the evil person from among you.” (1 Corinthians 5:13)

A vibrant assembly of born-again believers will not tolerate sin but will confront it with love and firmness, following the principles of spiritual discipline (Matthew 18:15-17).

Being born again produces a hatred for sin and a sincere desire for holiness. Such a Christian will not be able to have real fellowship in a place where sin is ignored or accepted, because the Holy Spirit within him will rebuke him and call him to separation.

If you find yourself in a living body where sin is not tolerated but is confronted in a spirit of gentleness and truth, as Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 5, this is a sign that the new birth may be genuine.

Paul clearly states: “For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Purge the evil person from among you.” (1 Corinthians 5:12-13) “A little leaven leavens the whole lump. Cleanse out the old leaven.” (1 Corinthians 5:6-7)

This shows that a spiritually healthy congregation will not tolerate sin in its midst but will seek purity, holiness, and mutual edification. Scripture warns seriously: “See to it that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.” (Hebrews 12:16)

This verse emphasizes how serious spiritual compromise is and how easily what is holy can be lost when sin is tolerated or ignored. A living assembly will watch over its members so that none of them live according to the flesh, but are urged toward repentance, holiness, and maturity in Christ.

Only such an environment—clean, alive, and subject to the Word—can be the place where an authentic new birth takes place. God places the members born of Him in a living Body, which lives in obedience to His commands and where each part contributes to the building up of the others in holiness and truth.

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To remain in a gathering that tolerates sin and disobedience means:

- Accepting compromise and turning a blind eye to living in sin.
- Putting personal comfort or social connections above the purity of the Body of Christ.
- Associating with those who practice sin, which is condemned by God. (Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? 2 Cor. 6:14; God says to the wicked: "If you see a thief, you join him, and you associate with adulterers. Psalm 50:16-18) God does not place the members born of His Spirit in a place where sin is tolerated and where there is no fear of God. Therefore, such a choice shows that no genuine new birth has taken place. God places His members in the Body of Christ, where holiness and obedience reign, where Christ is recognized and honored as Head.

Where there is no obedience to His commands, there is no life, but spiritual death—a dead body in which Christ is not present. Just as the body cannot live without the head, so a congregation that does not submit to Christ cannot be a place where the Holy Spirit works. Scripture says, “Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me” (John 14:21)—and where there is no true love for Christ, there is no presence of Him.

Question 3. Are you just an ordinary member in the congregation where you are?

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To consider yourself “an ordinary member” in the assembly means:

- Not understanding the calling that every believer has in the Body of Christ.

• Living passively, without involvement, which contradicts the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a born-again person.

• Ignoring the fact that every member is important and necessary for the growth of the other members of the Body (1 Corinthians 12:22).

Such a mentality is characteristic of a dead body, in which Christ is not present as Head, and the Holy Spirit is not at work. Where there is no obedience, involvement, and mutual edification, there is no life, but spiritual death.

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation:** God naturally places the one born of His Spirit into the fellowship of a spiritual family — the living Body of Christ, which is the Church. In this Body, no one is "insignificant," but every member is indispensable. "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'" (1 Corinthians 12:21).

This is God's portion for every believer: a living community in which Christ is the Head and the Holy Spirit actively works in each member. Each member has a unique role, established by Him, and is called to serve according to the gift received: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another" (1 Peter 4:10).

A born-again person cannot remain passive or anonymous in a gathering, but is called to be active, to contribute to the building up of the Body, and to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. The church is the place appointed by God for the perfection of the saints, to reach the stature of the fullness of Christ, and every believer has an essential role in the growth of others, according to the work of each part. (From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Ephesians 4:16) The members care for one another, and when one suffers, all suffer with him, as it is written: "That there be no division in the body, but that the members care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with him." (1 Corinthians 12:25-26)

In such an environment, the conditions for a real new birth are met, because the Holy Spirit is at work there, bringing growth and mutual edification.

Question 4. Do you think a born-again Christian can be away at work and absent from the Body of Christ for months or even years?

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation:** The born-again person is placed by God into the Body of Christ, according to 1 Corinthians 12:18, which is a living organism, not a religious organization. Just as no organ of the human body can function separately from the body, so no born-again member can live apart from the fellowship of the brethren for months or years without being spiritually dead.

Imagine if the pancreas or stomach left the body for a long period of time. Could it still live? Could it still serve the body? Obviously not. They are closely connected to the rest of the body through nerves, blood vessels, and vital

functions. The same is true of the members of the Body of Christ: "If one member suffers, all members suffer with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26).

The purpose of being born again is not only the salvation of the soul, but also growth toward spiritual maturity, until reaching the stature of a perfect man, the measure of teh stature of Christ's fullness (Ephesians 4:13).

This spiritual maturity can only be achieved according to God's plan, which has ordained the Body of Christ—the Church—as the place where each member contributes to the growth of the others. As Scripture says in Ephesians 4:16: "From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

This growth cannot be outside, but takes place within the Body—where each member, closely connected to the others, contributes, serves, and is built up by the work of others. To live outside this reality is to live outside God's will and His plan for the Church.

If a congregation accepts that its "members" can be absent for years and still be considered part of the Body, then that is not the Body of Christ, but a human structure. And it is not a new birth either, because the Holy Spirit does not form isolated believers, but unites them in a life of fellowship, service, and mutual dependence.

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To consider that someone who is born again can be away for months or years and still be considered part of His Body means:

- Ignoring the living and interdependent nature of the Body of Christ.
- To turn the assembly into a gathering place, not a living fellowship.
- To tolerate a life without fellowship, without rebuke, without service—which completely contradicts the born-again life.

Such teaching shows that no genuine new birth has taken place, either in those who have left or in those who remain and accept this state of affairs. God does not give birth to isolated members, but binds them closely together in love and service.

Question 5. When you were born again, did you have a spiritual parent, as Timothy had Paul?

- ❌ **Answer: No (incorrect) — Explanation:** To say that you were born again, but you did not have a spiritual parent means:
- Ignoring the biblical model of discipleship and spiritual growth.
- Assuming that a spiritual infant can feed and develop on its own, which is contrary to Scripture.
- To confuse preachers or religious leaders with true spiritual parents.
- A spiritual birth without family, care, and guidance raises serious questions about its authenticity.
- Ignoring the Body's responsibility to nurture and protect the newly born

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Such a situation shows that no genuine rebirth has taken place, neither in those who should be parents nor in those who are considered "children."

God does not give birth to children only to leave them orphaned. The Holy Spirit works in a living Body, where each child is entrusted to spiritual parents who watch over them with love and responsibility.

The Holy Spirit leaves no one an orphan, but works through mature brothers who care for those who are young in the faith, providing them with nourishment, correction, encouragement, and direction.

Where this work does not exist, there is no Body of Christ, but a dead structure, devoid of life and the presence of the Head, who is Christ.

✅ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** A born-again Christian, like an infant, needs a spiritual parent to care for him, teach him, rebuke him with love, and help him grow in Christ.

Just as Timothy had Paul—not only as a teacher, but as a spiritual father—so God appoints mature believers to give birth to and train disciples. Paul calls Timothy "my beloved child, faithful in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 4:17) and addresses him with words full of fatherly care: "The command I give you, Timothy my son..." (1 Timothy 1:18).

Being born again is not just a personal experience, but an entry into a spiritual family. Having a spiritual parent is proof that you have been received into the Body of Christ and that God has ordained for you a healthy growth, not a life of isolation or spiritual self-teaching.

When there are spiritual parents, lively fellowship, loving correction, and growth in obedience to the Word, the conditions for authentic new birth are met. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in a living body, where each member has its place, serves and is served, and Christ is the Head who gives life, direction, and unity.

Question 6. Do you consider that you have experienced the new birth, even though God has not fulfilled His part in your relationship with Him—He has not appointed a spiritual parent to care for you, and you have had to feed only on sermons, like an orphan child raised in an institution?

❌ **Answer: Yes (incorrect) — Explanation:** To say that you were born again, but that God did not fulfill His part — He did not give you a spiritual parent and left you to feed only on sermons — means accusing God of starting a work but not finishing it. It is:

- a serious accusation against God's faithfulness.
- Proof that the true meaning of being born again has not been understood.
- A confirmation that there was no transformation by the Holy Spirit. A child born of God is not an orphan. If you have lived as a spiritual orphan—without fellowship, without guidance, without a spiritual parent, as Paul was to Timothy and Titus—then you need to stop and ask yourself, "Have I truly been born again?" God does not make mistakes. The problem is not with Him, but with you.

The exception is seen in the case of Paul's conversion, who had a direct and supernatural encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus. But even he, after that experience, was integrated into the Body of Christ, received confirmation from other believers, and became a spiritual father to others himself.

Therefore, authentic rebirth is never an isolated process, but always involves fellowship, discipleship, and belonging to the Body of Christ.

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A person who has truly been born again cannot say that God has forgotten him or that He has not fulfilled His part in their relationship. The heavenly Father is faithful and does not give birth to children only to abandon them.

If someone claims to have been born again but has not received care, guidance, fellowship, and a spiritual parent, but has only been fed sermons like an institutionalized orphan, then they must ask themselves honestly: Was it truly a new birth? Or just a religious emotion?

Being born again is followed by a new life, in which God personally cares for His child through spiritual parents, living fellowship, and the work of the Holy Spirit. If this is not the case, it is not God who has failed, but the birth has not taken place. God does not forget any of those born of Him. Scripture clearly states that God is our Father: "I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters" (2 Cor. 6:18).

Question 7. Do you believe that a person can truly be born again if he lives alone, without being a member of the Church of Christ? (Col. 2:19)

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A born-again person cannot live in isolation, but is automatically placed by the Lord as a member of His Body, that is, the living Church, made up of born-again people. As it is written: “And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)

Scripture clearly states that it is God who places each member in the Body: "But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body, as He chose" (1 Corinthians 12:18).

This means that being born again is not just an individual experience, but a divine integration into a living Body, where each believer is first served as a child—fed, cared for, and trained—so that, in time, he himself may serve, having a place, a function, and a responsibility in the edification of others.

Just as a member cannot live apart from the body, so a born-again Christian cannot live apart from brotherly fellowship, rebuke, teaching, and mutual service: "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body..." (1 Corinthians 12:13) "For just as the body is one and has many members... so also is Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

Being born again makes you part of a living Body. If someone lives alone, without fellowship, without close ties to other members of the Body of Christ, without being under spiritual authority and without serving others, that person is not born again, but only has a form of godliness. God does not give

birth to children to leave them isolated, but places them places them in the Body of Christ. (God has set the members in the body... 1 Cor. 12:18)

❌ **Answer: Yes (incorrect) — Explanation:** To say that you can be born again and yet live alone, without being a member of a living assembly, means:

- Ignoring the organic and interdependent nature of the Body of Christ.
- Living an individualistic faith, disconnected from the biblical model of fellowship and mutual service.
- To deny the work of the Holy Spirit, who unites all who are born again into one Body.

Such a life shows that no authentic new birth has taken place, because a person born of God will seek fellowship, will feel the need for correction, teaching, and service. Isolation is a sign of spiritual death, not new life. ("And not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God." Colossians 2:19)

The Peace of God's Kingdom

Question 8. Do you consider it is appropriate for a Christian to resist if someone wants to harm him?

✅ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you choose not to resist someone who wants to harm you, but to respond with gentleness, love, and trust in God, it shows that you understand the values of the Kingdom of God and are living as a disciple of Christ. Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:39: "But I tell you, do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." This means that:

- You do not respond to evil with evil, but leave everything in God's hands (Romans 12:19).
- You choose the path of humility and forgiveness, not resistance and revenge.
- You live in confidence that God is your defender and that He sees and rewards.
- As His disciple, you have chosen to live as Lord Jesus lived.

This transformed life manifests itself through true discipleship, in which the Kingdom of God becomes the supreme priority, and Lord Jesus' non-resistance to those who crucified Him becomes your model for life. As Scripture teaches us: "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

This attitude is not weakness, but the power of the Holy Spirit working in the born-again believer.

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** If you say you agree to resist those who want to harm you, you contradict the teaching of Lord Jesus in Matthew 5:39, which clearly states that you should not resist those who hurt you.

Resistance, the desire to take justice into your own hands:

- Betrays a heart that has not been transformed by the grace of Christ.
- It goes against the Lord's commands, which call us to love our enemies and bless those who persecute us.
- It opposes the personal example of the Lord Jesus, who "when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to Him who judges justly" (1 Peter 2:23).

If you do not receive the Word of God with an open heart, there can be no genuine new birth. Resistance to the Word means rejecting the seed from which the new man is born. If rejected, the seed is "corrupted," and the process of being born again is compromised. Such an attitude shows that the heart is not good soil, suitable for bearing fruit (Luke 8:15).

Question 9. Do you think it is appropriate for a born-again Christian to serve in the military, work in structures such as the police, gendarmerie, or as a security guard (bodyguard), or to swear an oath to defend their country with their life? Would you do this if asked?

✅ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A born-again Christian who lives in obedience to Christ, cannot accept involvement in structures that involve violence, coercion, or loyalty to worldly authorities. The Lord Jesus said, "Love your enemies..." (Matthew 5:44). He also commanded, "Do not swear at all..." (Matthew 5:34). Therefore:

- Participation in the military, police, or other force structures contradicts the call to peace, gentleness, and nonresistance.
- Taking an oath to defend one's country at the cost of one's life implies a loyalty that conflicts with obedience to Christ.
- A Christian is called to be a witness to peace, not to war or worldly authority.

Refusal to participate in such structures and to take the oath is a sign of a sensitive conscience and a life transformed by the Holy Spirit.

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To consider it appropriate for a Christian to serve in military or law enforcement structures and take an oath to defend the country with their lives contradicts the spirit of the Gospel. These institutions:

- Operate on the basis of force and coercion, which contradicts the commandment to love one's enemies.
- Require obedience in matters that contradict the values of the Kingdom of God.
- Ask you to break the Word, which explicitly forbids oaths (Do not swear by heaven, or by earth, or by any other oath. James 5:12)

What's more, if you make such an oath, but in your heart you know that you will never use force—even when asked to—then not only are you in a position of moral compromise, but you also become a liar. Your oath becomes a form of hypocrisy, because you are promising something you do not intend to do.

This is not a sign of courage or faith, but proof that you have not been born

again. Agreeing to take an oath shows that you have not received the teaching of the Lord Jesus, who says, "But I tell you, do not swear at all..." (Matthew 5:34). This means that the ground that should receive the Word of Christ is trampled. New life is characterized by good soil that receives the Word and bears fruit.

The Righteousness of the Kingdom of God

Question 10. Are you hungry and thirsty for the righteousness that is lived in the Kingdom, and do you seek, above all else, His righteousness? (Matthew 6:33)

✓ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you are truly hungry and thirsty for His righteousness, which is experienced in the Kingdom of God, this is a sign of genuine new birth.

Lord Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6). This hunger and thirst are not just passing emotions, but a deep and constant desire to live a life of righteousness in accordance with His will. The righteousness that is lived in the Kingdom is practical, visible, and manifests itself concretely through:

- Truth instead of lies – you tell the truth even when it costs you, without distorting reality.
- Honesty instead of cunning – you do not manipulate or hide your intentions, but are sincere in your speech and in your heart.
- Integrity instead of compromise – you refuse bribes, fraud, illegal work, cheating in school, or any dishonest gain.
- Moral purity instead of hidden sin – you avoid the corrupt values of the world, dirty images, and unclean thoughts, living a life of holiness.
- Justice in relationships with others – you do not cheat, exploit, or speak ill, but seek the good of your neighbor.
- Transparency instead of hypocrisy – you do not wear a religious mask, but live authentically before God and people.
- Love for what is pure and holy – you don't just run away from evil, but you love what is right, pure, and pleasing to God.

This thirst for righteousness is the sign of a regenerated heart that can no longer be satisfied with a duplicitous or superficial life. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in the born-again believer.

✗ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you are not hungry and thirsty for the righteousness required by the Kingdom of God, then there can be no talk of a genuine new birth. As Scripture says in 1 John 3:10: "Whoever does not live in righteousness is not from God."

Righteousness is not optional, but is the mark of those who belong to Christ.

The lack of this desire manifests itself in:

- Accepting lies as normal, whether in seemingly insignificant details or as a method of avoiding unpleasant consequences.
- Cunning and manipulation in relationships, deception to gain advantages.
- Moral and financial compromises, such as bribery or undeclared work.

- Indifference to sin and lack of a real struggle against it.
- Living a double life, with a religious face in public and a hidden life of sin. This hidden life may also include sexual impurity, uncontrolled desires, and shameful acts that defile the soul and separate it from the holiness of God. If you do not have this hunger and thirst for what is right, pure, and holy, it is a sign that your heart has not been regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

Question 11. Do you think it is justified for a born-again Christian not to declare all his income and not to pay his taxes?

✗ **Answer: Yes — (incorrect) Explanation:** If someone, even if they are poor, works illegally and does not pay taxes, they are directly violating Christ's law. The Lord Jesus taught us to be ready to give to those who ask of us, not to resist those who want to take us to court, but to give them not only our coat, but also our shirt. In Luke 6:29–30, He says, "From one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back."

These commands were given in a specific historical context: the Jews were living under Roman occupation, and Roman soldiers had the legal authority to demand goods, taxes, or even forced labor from the local population.

Lord Jesus did not tell His disciples to revolt, but taught them to respond with a submissive heart in accordance with His commands. This attitude of voluntary submission and renunciation of personal rights reflects the values of those who are in the Kingdom of God.

In the same line of thought, we find His command: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's..." (Matthew 22:21). The apostle Paul reinforces this principle when he says: "Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed..." (Romans 13:7). This command is not an exception, but a logical continuation of the principle of not resisting those who take by force, and of living in obedience to our Teacher.

The payment of tribute, in the historical context, expresses submission to an authority that is often unjust but ordained by God. In contrast, today's taxes no longer have the oppressive character of taxes, but represent a responsible contribution to the common good, returning to society in the form of infrastructure and public services.

Therefore, refusal to pay taxes is not only a legal offense, but a form of rejection of Christ's commandments. This rejection of the Word shows that the new life that comes from obedience to Christ is not present.

Undeclared work is considered:

- A form of disguised theft, as it involves receiving or offering money in

hidden, without paying legal obligations.

- Tax evasion is a form of fraud against the state and society by evading the payment of taxes and duties owed, and is regulated by virtually every country around the globe.

Failure to pay taxes is not a minor mistake, but an act of theft, a crime—a conscious choice to live in disobedience to Christ's commands. The life of a disciple requires complete obedience, including in matters of integrity toward authorities and respect for the law. Deliberately living in sin contradicts the nature of a life transformed by God.

Scripture states in 1 John 3:9: "Whoever is born of God does not sin... and cannot sin, because he has been born of God." This does not mean that the believer never makes mistakes, but that he cannot willfully and continually live in sin because he has been renewed, and the Holy Spirit is working in him to live a life of holiness.

Justifying illegal employment or tax evasion is a clear sign that the heart has not been transformed. A person born of God is sensitive to Christ's commands, loves what is right, and turns away from lawlessness.

Undeclared work, experienced as a way of life, is not just an occasional mistake, but a continuous sin—a deliberate choice to live in dishonesty and disobedience to authority. If you have lived for years in this sin—justifying working off the books or tax evasion—and the church you belong to has tacitly accepted this sin in its midst, then it is in the same condition as you: far from the righteousness that characterizes the Kingdom of God.

Such a church, which does not rebuke sin and call for repentance, is a church without life. Even if activities continue, songs are sung, and sermons are preached, if the Holy Spirit is not working holiness and transformation, the body is dead. And those who belong to such a gathering are dead members—physically present but separated from the life that comes from Christ.

✅ **Answer: No — Explanation:** Genuine new birth does not mean not just a simple religious affiliation, but a profound transformation of the heart—a sincere desire to have a righteous character, like the One you follow.

This transformed life manifests itself through real discipleship, in which the Kingdom of God becomes the supreme priority and His righteousness becomes your model for living, as Scripture teaches us: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..." (Matthew 6:33).

It is a life lived as Christ lived, in truth, integrity, and submission to the demands of God's righteousness—a call to renounce all compromise and walk daily in the light, on the narrow path of righteousness.

Even when you experience financial hardship because of unfair competition—when others hide their income and you choose to be honest by paying your taxes—if you remain determined not to compromise, you prove that you are living the practical righteousness that God requires.

This attitude reflects:

- A heart of integrity that honors Christ above profit.
- A deep trust in God's care, even in times of need.

Living in light and truth shows a heart sensitive to God's will and a sincere desire to live in accordance with the values of His Kingdom. Paying taxes, even when those around you choose otherwise, shows a heart that loves justice.

But choosing righteousness is not enough if you do not also choose fellowship with those who walk with a pure heart. If the church you belong to tacitly accepts this sin—such as tax fraud—and you choose to remain in it without taking a stand, you are a partaker of their sin. Scripture clearly warns: "Come out of her, My people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues" (Revelation 18:4). Living in the light also means separating yourself from darkness, even if that choice involves painful breakups. (See also 2 Corinthians 6:14, 17.)

Being a disciple of Christ means choosing **the path of the few—the narrow path of righteousness.** It is a difficult but blessed path. Rejoice, for the kingdom belongs to those who are persecuted for living with integrity (Matthew 5:10).

Question 12. Do you believe that a person can be born again even if their life is characterized by serving two masters—that is, a life divided between God and the desire for gain?

✗ **Answer: Yes — (wrong) Explanation:** This answer reflects a misunderstanding of what it means to be born again. Being born again is not just a change in status, but a change in direction, motivation, and master. As it is written, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

His life is new, with new priorities, new desires, and a new direction. Being born again involves a call to discipleship and complete obedience to Christ.

Serving two masters is a life divided between God and the desire for gain. It is not just the rich—the poor can also serve Mammon.

Greed does not necessarily mean having millions, but living in a state of constant dissatisfaction with what you have, always wanting more, no matter how much you already have. It is a subtle form of idolatry—a disguised worship of oneself and the illusion of personal security.

Lord Jesus said that we cannot serve both God and Mammon (Matthew 6:24), showing that service requires total devotion, not a heart divided between God and the desire for gain.

Serving two masters is not only a wrong choice, but a form of disobedience to Christ's commandments, which require a whole heart and exclusive loyalty. Such a person, even if he professes to be a believer, but lives for himself, for money, work, and selfish interests, **does not live as a new creature**, as Christ requires. (Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Matthew 6:19)

Lord Jesus firmly that there is no neutrality in the Kingdom of God. In the Gospel of Luke, He says, "Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters." (Luke 11:23).

He clearly defines that a person's heart always follows what they value most: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). If your treasure is earthly things—money, possessions, or personal security—then your heart will be tied to these temporary things.

To continue to set your mind on earthly things instead of seeking those above, to live to accumulate, is not only a selfish and wrong choice, but a path that leads to destruction. The Lord Jesus calls the man who puts his trust in the goods of this world without thinking about his soul a "fool":

"Fool! This night your soul is required of you.." (Luke 12:20 21) Greed is placed on the same level as idolatry, fornication, and adultery— sins that destroy not only the soul of the one who practices them, but also the purity and witness of the Christian community. Therefore, greed is not just a matter of wrong priorities, but a serious offense before God. Scripture is categorical: "Do not be deceived: ...the greedy will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Moreover, Scripture condemns greed not only as a personal weakness, but as a serious sin that must not be tolerated in the midst of the Church. Paul writes firmly: "Have no fellowship with anyone who, though he calls himself a brother, is... greedy" (1 Corinthians 5:11). A church that tolerates such sins proves that it does not have Christ as its Head and is therefore a dead church.

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation:** This is the correct answer. The new birth does not leave a person unchanged, but produces a transformed life. True faith causes a person to deny himself and follow Christ with all his heart. Grace does not nullify human responsibility, but makes it possible.

The life of a disciple is a call to complete dedication. Like a soldier who does not allow himself to be distracted by everyday concerns, Christ's disciple is called to remain focused on his heavenly goal—to become like his Teacher. Scripture reminds us that "No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him" (2 Timothy 2:4). This image clearly emphasizes that the life of discipleship cannot coexist with a life centered on the accumulation of material goods or the desire to keep up with the world.

The disciple does not live for the transitory things of the earth, but for what is eternal. He chooses to live as his Teacher lived—with his eyes and heart fixed on heaven.

He directs his thoughts and efforts toward things above, not toward the things below (Colossians 3:2). His goal is not to accumulate for himself, but to reflect the character of Christ—a character defined by selfless love, not selfishness.

True love, as described in 1 Corinthians 13:5, "does not seek its own" but the good of the other. This is the essence of a life lived in authentic discipleship.

Hoarding treasures for oneself is contrary to the spirit of discipleship. While the world values the accumulation of material goods, Christ's disciple is called to use **everything he has—resources, time, abilities**—to invest in eternal purposes: to meet the needs of those around him, to contribute to the

expansion of God's Kingdom. “The wage of the righteous leads to life” (Proverbs 10:16), not to build an illusory security in the present world.

If you have lived with the idea of gathering treasures on earth, it is time to reorient your heart. The true treasure is in heaven, and it is gathered through generosity, service, and living in obedience to Christ. Align your life with His will, and you will discover riches that never perish.

Question 13. Do you think it is appropriate to give gifts or money to doctors and nurses when you are in the hospital?

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you choose not to give money or gifts to medical personnel, even "when necessary," it shows that you desire to live in the practical righteousness and justice required by the Kingdom of God. According to Scripture, bribery is sin and a form of injustice. Exodus 23:8 says, "You shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of those who are in the right." Giving money or gifts in the context of medical service:

- It is considered a bribe, even if it is disguised as a "gesture of gratitude."
- It encourages a corrupt and unjust system in which some receive better care only if they pay extra.
- It contradicts the spirit of the Gospel, which calls us to fairness, transparency, and respect for the law.

Refusing such practices is a sign that you want to live in accordance with the practical righteousness required by the Kingdom of God.

✗ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** If your answer is "Yes" and you think it is appropriate to give money or gifts to doctors and nurses, even "when necessary," you should know that this practice is sinful from a biblical and moral standpoint. Even though it is widespread in society, it:

- Is a form of bribery, which corrupts justice and creates inequality.
- It provides an opportunity for sin for those to whom you give it, because, as Ecclesiastes 7:7 says, **"A bribe corrupt the heart"** — that is, they affect moral discernment and corrupt the conscience. And the Lord Jesus warns seriously: **"Woe to that man through whom the occasion of sin comes!"** (Luke 17:1)

This shows that you have not received the Word of Christ (the seed) and cannot talk about authentic rebirth or discipleship to Christ. If the church you attend tolerates bribery, it reflects a serious state of deception. Such a mentality is characteristic of a dead body, in which Christ is not present.

Question 14. Is it a way of life for you to constantly drive more than 10 km/h over the legal limit, to transport more people than is allowed in the car's registration certificate, or to not wear a seat belt?

✓ **Correct answer: No — Explanation:** If you are not in the habit of breaking traffic rules — such as exceeding the speed limit, transporting more people than is permitted, or wearing a seatbelt — this shows that you want to

live in accordance with the practical righteousness required by the Kingdom of God. According to Romans 13:1-2, authorities are appointed by God, and their laws must be obeyed. Driving responsibly means:

- Respect for your life and the lives of those around you.
- Obedience to God, who calls us to be disciplined and honest.
- A transformed heart that does not seek excuses for disobedience.

A child of God does not habitually live in violation of the law, but seeks to be an example of righteousness, care, and obedience. This shows that he desires to live in accordance with the righteousness required by God.

❌ **Wrong answer: Yes — Explanation**: If you have made breaking traffic rules — such as exceeding the legal speed limit, transporting more people than is allowed in the registration certificate, or not wearing a seat belt — a way of life, this reflects an attitude of disregard for the law, for your own life and that of others, but especially a heart that is not obedient to God. This attitude:

• Contradicts the biblical teaching in Romans 13, which calls us to submit to the authorities appointed by God.

• Is a form of disobedience, incompatible with the life of one born of God, who, having a heart sensitive to sin through the work of the Holy Spirit, loves what is right and turns away from lawlessness. It may seem like a minor detail, but it reflects a heart that is not attentive to God's will in matters that require submission to authority.

Taking the driver's license exam implies a clear commitment: that we will obey traffic rules and drive responsibly. Deliberately breaking these rules, after we have committed to obey them, is not only a violation of the law, but also a lack of integrity before God and man.

If Lord Jesus were alive today, He would never deliberately drive illegally. If He had obtained a driver's license, He would not have ignored traffic rules, because His life was characterized by complete obedience— both to God and to the laws of men, as long as they did not contradict the divine will. He lived in holiness and respect for all legitimate authority, giving us a perfect model to follow.

Therefore, the disciple who is determined to live like his Teacher cannot live in compromise or indifference to the law. To follow Christ means to live with a clear conscience, attentive to the will of God.

Therefore, neglecting these "things that seem small" is a form of rejection of Christ's commands and a sign that the Holy Spirit does not dwell and work in that heart. If you consider yourself a believer for years and live that way, it is questionable whether the new life has truly begun.

If the church you belong to tolerates disobedience to the authorities appointed by God, this is a clear sign of spiritual erring. Where Christ is not recognized as Head, the body is lifeless.

Question 15. Can a Christian born of God, called to reject the values of the world, consciously expose himself to environments such as public beaches

or swimming pools, where the body is exposed and sin is promoted, knowing that these influence the heart and mind and fuel the lusts of the flesh?

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation**: If you understand God's call to to live in holiness, purity, and separation from the values of the world, then you will recognize that willingly exposing yourself to environments that promote the exposure of the body and the desires of the flesh—such as public beaches or swimming pools—is not appropriate for a born-again Christian.

Scripture clearly states: "Do not love the world or the things in the world..." (1 John 2:15) "Flee youthful lusts..." (2 Timothy 2:22) "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matthew 5:8) A born-again Christian: Does not seek out places that can defile his eyes, mind, and heart. Is aware that the eyes can become a gateway to sin (Matthew 5:28). Lives with discernment, choosing to avoid any context that can fuel the flesh.

Avoiding such places is not legalism, but evidence of a transformed heart that loves purity and wants to please God in all things.

✗ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation**: If you say that it is appropriate for a born-again Christian to frequent places that promote the exposure of the body and the desires of the flesh, such as public beaches, you are mistaken. This attitude:

- It contradicts the call to holiness and separation from the world (2 Corinthians 6:17).
- It exposes the heart and mind to temptations and images that can defile the soul.
- It shows that you do not understand that exposing your own body can become an occasion for others to sin. The Lord Jesus showed how serious such a sin is: "Woe to that man through whom occasion to sin comes!" (Luke 17:1)
- It shows that you lack spiritual discernment and that you do not live in the fear of God.

If you see no problem in exposing yourself or watching such things, it is a sign that new life is not present. As Lord Jesus says in Luke 8, the Word of God is the seed that falls on different hearts. A heart that does not receive the Word cannot bear the fruit of a transformed life.

Question 16. Can someone be born again if they constantly live in anger, without this attitude being changed in the image of Christ?

✗ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you answered "Yes," it is a clear sign that you have not fully understood God's plan for salvation. Salvation is not just a legal forgiveness of sins, but a call to a new life—a profound transformation of being, a restoration of the image of God in man, and spiritual growth to the "stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

If, after years of Christian life, anger remains a way of life, this is not just a human weakness, but proof that the new birth has not truly taken place. In such a case, it is a sign that the Holy Spirit is not present to convict of this serious sin. A heart born of God is sensitive to the conviction of the Spirit and

cannot live comfortably in this sin. The absence of inner conviction shows a separation from the work of the Holy Spirit.

Constant anger, as a way of life, reflects a heart that has not been regenerated. Lord Jesus said, “Everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment” (Matthew 5:22). Repeatedly living in anger shows that you do not care about the Lord’s warning and that you have not truly received His Word.

Scripture states: “Whoever is born of God does not sin... and cannot sin, because he has been born of God” (1 John 3:9). Therefore, a life marked by anger and disobedience shows that new life is not present.

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation:** The answer "No" shows a correct understanding of salvation. Entry into the Kingdom of God is possible through His grace and mercy, but this grace does not nullify man's responsibility — it makes it possible.

God calls us to cooperate with Him in the process of salvation and sanctification. The apostle Paul urges us: "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12-13) and "We are God's fellow workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

Being born again is not just a change in status, but the beginning of a new life—a life of self-denial, obedience, and seeking the things of God's kingdom. To live constantly in sin, whether it be anger or some other form of disobedience, and to hope only for final mercy without a transformed life is a dangerous delusion.

The life of discipleship involves walking daily in obedience to Christ, with a sincere desire to become like Him. And Christ left us a clear example: "Learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11:29). Gentleness and humility are essential traits of the true disciple and are in direct contrast to the anger and pride that characterize the earthly nature.

Anger lived as a way of life is a continual sin that contradicts the fruit of the Spirit and the character of Christ. Freedom from the bondage of anger does not come through our own willpower, but through keeping God's Word, which teaches us not to resist evil (Matthew 5:39), to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44), and to bless those who persecute us. To live this way is to allow the Holy Spirit to transform our reactions and teach us gentleness, patience, and peace.

A life freed from the bondage of anger, lived in gentleness and long-suffering, is a sign of the fulfillment of the condition of being born again. It is proof that the Word of God has not only been heard, but also kept and fulfilled in daily life—a life in which the disciple becomes more and more like his Teacher.

Question 17. Can a person truly be born again if he does not guard himself and feed on the sources of the world, such as inappropriate content and images commonly found on the internet and television screens, which arouse sinful desires, contrary to the biblical exhortation in Proverbs 4:23: "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life"?

✗ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you answered "Yes," it is a sign that

you have not fully understood the purpose of God's grace. Grace is not an excuse to live in sin, but a call to a new, clean, and holy life. Salvation is not just legal forgiveness, but a profound work of transformation of the heart and mind.

Being born again brings with it a radical change in perspective and desires. If someone has made a covenant with the Lord and continues to live constantly in the pleasures of the world—such as consuming immoral content, entertainment that stirs up lust, or spending time in front of screens with things that defile the soul—this is evidence that the new birth has not taken place.

Scripture says, “I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless” (Psalm 101:3). “Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things” (Psalm 119:37). “Do not love the world or the things in the world” (1 John 2:15).

The born-again man no longer feeds on the counsel of the wicked, but finds his delight in the law of the Lord. As Psalm 1 says: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night."

The counsel of the wicked is not limited to immoral company, but also includes **ideological**, cultural, and **political** influences that promote dishonesty, pride, hatred, and compromise. To walk in these ways is to allow your mind and heart to be shaped by values contrary to the Kingdom of God. Let us imagine for a moment that our Teacher, the Lord Jesus, had fed on the same things we feed on—superficial content, empty images, worldly ideologies, or political discourse. Would He have gotten involved in the politics of this age, in the power games, compromises, and manipulations that characterize it? Would He have done that? Would He have looked at what defiles the soul? The answer is obvious: no.

He lived in purity, obedience, and communion with the Father. Therefore, the disciple who truly desires to be like his Master has renounced feeding himself from sources that contradict the character of Christ.

The disciple of Christ is called to live as his Teacher lived: to guard his heart and eyes, to avoid vain things, and to walk in the light. He does not conform to the pattern of this age, but allows himself to be transformed by the renewal of his mind, seeking to have a pure heart, like Christ, and a life filled with the fruit of the Spirit.

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation**: The answer "No" shows a correct understandingof salvation. God's grace is not a permisson to continue in sin, but it is the power that enables us to live a holy life. True faith is seen in the fruits of a transformed life that rejects what defiles and seeks what edifies.

The Internet can be a useful tool, but when it becomes a constant source of temptation—through images, words, or ideas that stir up the flesh—it becomes an obstacle to holiness.

A born-again person will understand that the eyes are the gateway to the heart, and what enters through them influences thinking, desires, and behavior. Therefore, he will take concrete steps to guard his heart, in obedience to the exhortation in Proverbs 4:23: "Keep your heart with all

vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." He will make firm decisions, such as the one expressed in Psalm 101:3: "I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless."

This attitude translates into practical actions, such as:

• Avoiding sources of sinful influence, such as movies, videos, or websites that promote immorality, as well as toxic content—political debates or news.

• Setting clear limits on time spent online and choosing the content consumed.

• Replacing worldly sources with sources that build faith.

• Seeking fellowship with other believers who can offer support, accountability, and encouragement in the fight for purity.

These decisions are not legalism, but the expression of a regenerated heart that desires to live in purity and be pleasing to the Lord. A true disciple does not play with sin, but watches, guards himself, and seeks to be transformed day by day into the likeness of Christ.

An authentic disciple of Christ will not take visual sin or the subtle influences of the world lightly. He will strive to keep his heart pure, knowing that holiness is the living proof of a real new birth and that the eyes must be enlightened by truth, not defiled by darkness.

But this guarding is not only a personal responsibility, but also a communal one. The elders of the assembly have a duty to watch over souls (Hebrews 13:17) and to implement concrete measures to protect the flock, including with regard to the use of the internet. Where there is no watchfulness, there is no Christ.

Things that precede being born again

Question 18. Was your desire to be saved primarily motivated by the desire to have a share in heaven and escape eternal punishment?

❌ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If your desire to be saved is based primarily on the hope of going to Heaven or the fear of eternal punishment, you need to honestly examine your motivation. Such an approach, centered on personal gain—whether the desire for reward or the fear of hell—reflects a superficial and opportunistic understanding of God's call.

Imagine a poor young woman who dreams of a better life and agrees to become the bride of a rich man's son, not out of love, but out of a desire to escape poverty. His father would be willing to give her everything, but on one condition: that she sincerely love his son. In reality, she is only after the material advantages she could obtain, without feeling any genuine appreciation for the young man she is supposed to love. Would the young man's father appreciate her?

The same is true of the sinful man who comes to God only for the promise of Heaven or out of fear of Hell, without feeling any sincere admiration for the beauty of Christ's character and without the desire for a real closeness to Him.

Scripture presents the Lord Jesus as the Bridegroom who comes to take

His Bride — the Church. If we desire anything more than Christ Himself in our hearts, then we have not truly understood the call of the Gospel.

Being born again is not the result of fear or selfish desire, but of sincere love for Christ—for who He is, not just for what He offers. Heaven is not just a beautiful destination, but the place where we will be for eternity with the One we love.

Fear of hell cannot be the foundation of a genuine relationship with the Lord Jesus. A motivation based on fear or self-interest does not reflect a genuine new birth. Lord Jesus clearly emphasized that a relationship with Him requires deep love and total commitment: “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37).

✓ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you answered "No," it is possible that your motivation was sincere love for Christ—a love that does not seek reward and does not merely flee punishment, but desires fellowship with Him. This is the foundation of genuine new birth: a living, deep, and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, based on who He is, not what He can offer.

If you love Christ (His character) with all your heart, with all your mind, and more than anything else in the world, then the conditions for a new life and authentic growth are met.

Question 19. When you heard the Word of the Gospel, which showed you the Lord Jesus as He truly is, were you drawn to the beauty of His character?

✓ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you answered “Yes,” it means that you may have been genuinely touched by the beauty and perfection of the character of the Lord Jesus, as revealed in Scripture. This attraction is not based solely on what He has done for you, but especially on who He is in His essence—**the way He lived in obedience to the Father.**

He denied Himself, became a servant, and lived with a holy fear of God, manifested through complete obedience. Such sincere attraction to His way of being gives birth in the heart to love and desire to follow Him and live like Him. This inner movement can be a clear sign of genuine new birth.

Like love between people, true love is not born simply because someone loves us or does something special for us. A young man will not truly fall in love with a girl just because he finds out that she loves him. Genuine love arises when he sees something beautiful and admirable in her—a noble character, an inner beauty that sincerely attracts him.

Likewise, the sinful man who comes to God only for the promise of Heaven or out of fear of Hell, without feeling sincere admiration for the beauty of Christ's character and without the desire for a real closeness to Him, does not experience an authentic relationship. Salvation is not a simple transaction, but a relationship of love, in which the soul is drawn to the beauty of the Savior.

✗ **Answer: No (wrong) — Explanation**: If you answered "No," it means that until now, you have not been attracted to the beauty of Lord Jesus' character as revealed in His Word. True love for Christ springs from a personal and deep understanding of the inner beauty of His character.

Without being sincerely attracted, there can be no genuine love above

all else—an essential condition for being considered worthy to be His bride and, implicitly, for experiencing the new birth.

Question 20. If you have been attracted by the beauty of the Lord Jesus' character, has He become the most important being in your life, so that you love Him with all your mind, with all your heart, above all else?

✓ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If Christ has truly become the most important being in your life and you love Him with all your heart, with all your mind, and more than anything else, this is a sign of an authentic new birth. Such love:

- puts Christ first in all decisions and areas of life, without compromise.
- It manifests itself in a sincere desire to live as He lived, in all aspects of your life. ("Whoever says he abides in Him must walk as He walked." 1 John 2:6)

This love arises when you see the character of the Lord Jesus as more precious than anything else in the world.

✗ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If your answer is "No," and you cannot say that you love Christ more than anything else, then you cannot speak of a genuine new birth. For new birth to take place, Christ must be the center of your life and the ultimate source of joy and fulfillment.

If something else—whether the world, things, desires, or even your own life—occupies first place in your heart, then:

- You have not experienced a real change in priorities.
- You have not come to see the character of Christ in His beauty and majesty. You have not found the treasure hidden in the field that causes you to sell everything you have. (Matthew 13:44)
- You are not living in the love that causes you to leave behind the old in order to embrace the new.

I encourage you to pray sincerely, seek Him with all your heart, and discover His beauty, so that He may become your most precious treasure.

Question 21. Can you honestly say that you have experienced first love — where Lord Jesus and His Word are everything to you, as the Bridegroom of your soul?

✓ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you have experienced first love — that is, He is your first love, if the Lord Jesus and His Word are everything to you — then this is a sign of genuine new birth.

This love:

- It manifests itself in a sincere desire to live in obedience to Christ and His Word, not out of obligation, but out of a deep love born of fascination with the beauty of His perfect character.
- It shapes your thinking, choices, and values, making Christ and His Word the center of your life, like a spiritual engagement in which your heart is wholly devoted to Him.
- It is characterized by a deep and personal desire to have the character of Christ and His Word.
- It fills your heart with a desire to please Him in all things. This love is

not just a passing emotion, but a living and deep connection with the Lord that motivates your entire life.

❌ **Answer: No (wrong) — Explanation:** If your answer is "No" and you have not experienced first love, in which Christ is everything to you, then there can be no talk of a covenant of betrothal and an authentic new birth.

First love is the sign that your heart has been deeply attracted to the beauty and perfect character of Christ. If you do not have this love:

- You have not come to know and be overwhelmed by the splendor of His character.
- His Word is not a treasure for your soul.
- This means that your relationship with Christ as your betrothed is not a living and personal one.

Being born again is not the result of fear or selfish desire, but springs from a sincere, deep, and pure love for Christ—a love that binds the heart to Him forever. It is the beginning of a living and personal relationship, like a spiritual betrothal, in which the soul responds to the divine call.

Only this authentic love, born of the freedom of the heart, moves God to enter into a covenant with man—a holy, eternal covenant based on mutual love.

This image is beautifully illustrated in the words of the prophet Ezekiel: "When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine." (Ezekiel 16:8)

The Life of Discipleship

Question 22. When you made your covenant with God, did you truly renounce yourself and joyfully receive all His teaching?

❌ **Answer: No, there are still areas where I disagree with what He has He taught (wrong) — Explanation**: Renouncing yourself means giving up your own will, your personal opinions, and any attitude that is not in accordance with God. It is the act by which a person ceases to rule himself and submits entirely to the divine will.

The opposite of self-denial is being your own god — living according to your own convictions, even when they contradict the teachings of Christ. Making yourself equal with God, in the negative sense, means retaining your spiritual autonomy, refusing correction, and considering yourself the supreme authority in your life. It is a subtle but profound form of pride and resistance to divine truth.

Lord Jesus, although He had the image of God, denied Himself and chose complete obedience. If we do not deny ourselves as He did, but hold on to our opinions, our will, and our opposition to the Word, then we cannot speak of a genuine new birth. Denying ourselves is proof that we have given up being "gods" in our own eyes and have chosen to be disciples of Christ.

The true new birth:

- Is due to a submissive heart that accepts and loves the whole teaching of Christ, not just the convenient parts.
- It leaves no room for negotiation with God's will, but will bring about a transformation of the mind and heart.
- It is due to self-denial, in order to live in obedience and service.

If you still resist Christ's teachings—even in one aspect—it is a sign that you have not truly been born again. Resistance to the Word of Christ, which is the seed of God, means rejecting the source through which the new man is born. Where the seed is not received, the ground is hardened and cannot come to life.

I encourage you to approach God with sincerity, to deny yourself, and to give up the desire to be equal with God.

✅ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you have denied yourself — your will, your natural desires, and worldly thinking—this is a sign of authentic rebirth and true discipleship. Self-denial is the foundation of discipleship, as the Lord said: “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).

This call is reinforced by the Lord's words in Luke 14:27, which emphasize the seriousness of discipleship: "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

Therefore, discipleship is not a superficial choice, but a life of self-denial, obedience, and wholehearted pursuit of Christ. Self-denial:

- Means giving up the right to live your life according to your own plans and submitting yourself completely to God's will.
- It manifests itself in deep love and complete obedience, even when Christ's teachings are difficult or contrary to your nature.
- It is proof that Christ is truly the Lord of your life. This self-denial is only possible when we are deeply fascinated by Christ and His Word and love Him with all our hearts.

Self-denial is not a simple exercise of will or a moral discipline imposed from outside. It springs from a heart that has seen the inner beauty of Christ's character. When our spiritual eyes are opened to admire Christ for how He lived in obedience to the Father, then our will naturally begins to bow before His will.

Fascination with Christ is not a passing emotion, but a deep, transforming attraction. When we truly love Him, we no longer want to run our own lives. We no longer want to hold on to our own opinions if they are not in agreement with His. We begin to desire what He desires, to think as He thinks, to live as He lived.

Question 23. Can you say that as a result of your decision, all things have become new, and the old things have passed away, as it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

❌ **Answer: No (incorrect) — Explanation:** If your answer is "No," then it cannot be considered a genuine new birth. It is essential to stop and examine yourself honestly. Being born again is not just an emotional decision or a verbal declaration, but a profound and visible transformation of your life, priorities, and thinking.

The apostle Paul leaves no room for interpretation when he says, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. " (Colossians 3:1-3).

If, after years of faith, your life is still centered on the old things—such as working from morning until evening, comfort, earthly achievements—while the Kingdom of God is left in second place, then you are not living in obedience to Christ. To disregard this command means to live in contradiction to the new identity you claim to have in Christ.

Paul warns with sorrow: "For many... walk as enemies of the cross of Christ... with minds set on earthly things. Their end is destruction." (Philippians 3:18-19) True rebirth produces a radical change:

- The mind is reoriented toward heaven.
- The heart is attached to Christ.
- Priorities are set on new things, things above.
- Life is lived in obedience and discipleship.

To continue living as before, with only a religious facade but without a real change in the center of your life, is dangerous self-deception. It is not enough to attend church or pray. If you do not walk according to the things above, you are not living as one who has been raised with Christ.

✅ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If this is confirmed by your life and behavior, then it is a genuine new birth. It is not a mere religious decision, but a profound transformation of the mind, heart, and conduct. Desires have changed, sin no longer has power, and life is led by the Holy Spirit.

Values, priorities, and goals are no longer tied to earthly things but are centered on Christlikeness. As Scripture says, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

But if your answer is “yes,” yet when you look honestly in the mirror of the Word, you see that not all things have been made new, but you have retained old things in your life, then you must humbly admit that you are in a state of self-deception.

It is easy to say that you are in Christ, but if your life does not reflect a clear break from the past, if worldly habits, attitudes, and attachments still define your experience, then you are not what you claim to be. Scripture warns, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22).

For illustration, let's take a concrete case of an old thing that has not been made new—involvement in the affairs of this world, especially those related to the politics of the day — a characteristic common to many who believe they have been born again.

Reality shows that this attachment to the systems of the world persists even in the lives of those who claim to have long been on the path of faith, betraying a lack of genuine transformation. To become emotionally engaged in elections, ideological debates, or in supporting a system or a faction reveals that the old life has not truly been abandoned and that the values of the world still hold a place in the heart.

It is proof that the heart still lives under the influence of the earthly nature, anchored in the old things of the world, seeking human solutions to its problems, instead of dedicating itself to discipleship in order to become like Christ.

A born-again person no longer belongs to this world. He no longer fights for earthly causes, no longer invests energy in temporary structures, no longer seeks solutions through human means. He knows that his citizenship is in heaven and that he is only a stranger and a traveler on this earth.

If you get involved in the politics of this world, if you worry about who is in charge, who wins, who loses, then you are living as a citizen of this world, not of heaven. And if you live like that, you cannot say that all things have been made new.

To understand what a new life really means, we must look to the Lord Jesus. He is the supreme model of a life separated from the world. Although He lived in a tense political context, under Roman occupation, He did not get involved in politics, social reforms, or worldly ideologies. He did not seek to change the system, but to save souls. He clearly stated, "My kingdom is not of this world."

He was not concerned with who ruled Rome or Judea, but with the salvation of mankind. And if He lived that way, His disciples must live that way too. "Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked." 1 John 2:6 This is not a suggestion, but a holy calling.

To be His disciple means to follow His example in everything. If He was separate from the world, so must we be. If He did not get involved in the politics of the world, neither are we allowed to do so. To live otherwise is to deceive ourselves, even if we speak pious words.

Imagine you are on your way to an important destination, such as Germany, and on your journey you pass through a foreign country—let's say Hungary. You don't stop to vote there, nor do you get involved in their internal politics. You don't make plans for the future in that country because you know you are just passing through. You have a clear destination, and the time you

spend there is short and rootless.

You don't behave like a local, but like a stranger and traveler who knows he doesn't belong there. Such is the life of a Christian on earth: he is not a citizen of this world, but only a stranger and traveler on his way to heaven. To stop along the way and get entangled in the political problems of this world is to forget who you are and where you are going.

It is a subtle but dangerous deviation from the heavenly calling. And yet, many who claim to be born again stop there. They get involved. They worry. They fight for political causes, for ideologies, for human justice. But in this commitment to the world, they break clear commands of Scripture. It is not just a personal choice, but conscious disobedience.

The Word of God clearly says, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above" (Colossians 3:1-2). But when the mind is filled with news, political analysis, and social unrest, there is no room left for things above. The command is clear, and its violation cannot be justified by good intentions or seemingly noble motivations.

The righteous person has a clear and firm attitude toward the influences of the world. He does not voluntarily expose himself to information or contexts that defile the soul. Scripture says: "He who walks righteously... shuts his eyes from looking at evil" (Isaiah 33:15). This is not a simple choice of the moment, but a discipline of the heart.

In this context, the church has the responsibility to watch that no believer becomes worldly and strays from the heavenly calling. A living church does not tolerate compromise. When its members cling to old and worldly things—such as involvement in politics—it is clear evidence that the church allows these deviations. And by this, even if it has the reputation of being alive, it is dead.

Psalm 1 reinforces this image of separation from the world: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers" (Psalm 1:1). The righteous man not only guards his eyes but also his steps and the place where he sets his heart. He does not seek the counsel of the world, does not linger in its midst, and does not settle comfortably into its atmosphere. He knows that any closeness to worldly thinking is a departure from the mind of Christ.

We are told: "I urge you, as strangers and travelers, to abstain from the desires of the flesh..." (1 Peter 2:11). And involvement in the systems of this world shows that you are not living as a stranger, but as a citizen of the earth. Not as a stranger and traveler, but as a person who has found his place here. And if you have settled comfortably into this world, how can you say that you are on your way to heaven?

All these are not just signs of weakness, but clear evidence that the old things have not gone away. That new life has not truly begun. That being born again is not real, but only a form without substance. A person who feeds on the things of the world, who is involved in the politics and ideologies of the world, who is concerned with the systems of this world, does not live as Lord Jesus lived. And if he does not live like Him, he is not His disciple, no matter how religious his life may seem.

True rebirth produces a clear break from the values of the world and an exclusive orientation toward things above. It is a new life, not just an improved life. It is a departure from the past, not a cosmetic change. It is walking in the light, not hiding in the darkness with Sunday clothes. And only there, in this new life, does discipleship truly begin. There the likeness to Christ begins. There heaven begins.

Question 24. Following your decision to follow Christ, did you begin your life of discipleship with the central goal of becoming like your Teacher?

❌ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you did not begin your discipleship with a sincere desire to become like Christ, then there are serious reasons to question the authenticity of your new birth.

Discipleship is the process by which a person commits to actively following Christ, learning from Him, imitating His life, and living in obedience to His teachings. Being **a disciple** means more than simply admiring Lord Jesus—it means being a dedicated learner who models his entire life after the example of the Teacher. The disciple:

- Follows Christ with loyalty and perseverance;
- Seeks to know Him more deeply through the Word and prayer;
- Allows himself to be transformed by the Holy Spirit in character and behavior;
- Embraces the call to carry on Christ's teaching and make other disciples.

True new birth:

- Is marked by a burning desire to follow Christ and become like Him.
- The lack of this desire and the path of discipleship shows that you have not truly understood His call. According to His words, you are not worthy to be His disciple. The Lord Jesus clearly said in Luke 14 that "if anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

Discipleship is not optional for the born-again believer—it is clear evidence of a regenerated life.

✅ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If, after deciding to follow Christ, you have humbled yourself—that is, become meek and submissive to His commands—and have stepped onto the path of discipleship with a sincere desire to become like Him, and day by day you work consciously as a dedicated disciple, aiming to reach the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13), this is a sign of a genuine new birth.

Authentic discipleship means:

- To follow Christ not only by accepting His teaching, but also by living and keeping His commandments, so that through fulfilling them His character, attitude, and way of life may be reflected in yor life.
- Allowing yourself to be continually transformed by the Holy Spirit to

reflect the image of your Teacher.

- To live in self-denial, carrying your cross daily.
- Manifesting humility, which involves submission and obedience, even when the Lord's commands are difficult or contrary to your nature.

Through this commitment, your heart becomes the place where God truly works, gradually transforming you into His image and likeness.

If your answer is "Yes," but looking honestly in the mirror of the Word, you see that you have kept old things in your life—as mentioned in the previous example—then you must humbly admit that this is not a life of authentic discipleship, but a state of self-deception.

Question 25. When you made this covenant, did you offer yourself willingly and live as a slave of Christ, as He lived toward His Father? (Philippians 2:7)

❌ **Answer: No (wrong) — Explanation:** If your answer is "No," it shows that you have not truly understood that you must willingly offer yourself as a slave of Christ, living in complete obedience to His commands.

To be a slave means, in a general sense, to be deprived of freedom and to live in the service and under the authority of someone else. In a spiritual context, being a slave to Christ means willingly submitting yourself to His lordship, living in total obedience to His will and renouncing your own autonomy. It is a conscious choice to recognize Christ as the absolute Lord of your life.

True new birth involves total surrender and a life characterized by continual submission to Christ, following the example He left us. He "emptied Himself and took the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7), giving us a perfect model of humility and obedience.

If you are not living this way:

- You have not surrendered your own will.
- There can be no talk of genuine rebirth, because the Holy Spirit does not dwell in a heart that does not offer itself as a servant and refuses to submit to the Lord. It is vital to understand that the new birth is not just an emotional decision, but a profound transformation, reflected in a life of obedience to God. This inner change manifests itself in a voluntary, total surrender that leads to sanctification—an essential part of the process by which our character is molded after that of Christ.

Scripture clearly states: "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. " (Romans 6:22). Without this surrender as a slave, there can be no sanctification, and without sanctification, no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).

✓ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If, when you entered into covenant with Christ, you willingly offered yourself and live as His slave, in obedience to all that He has commanded, then you are following His example of humility and submission to His Father (Philippians 2:7). This means that:

- You have surrendered your will to live in His will.
- You live your life in constant, not selective, obedience.

For example, let us take a concrete study of Scripture's teaching on oaths and non-resistance. If the Lord Jesus commanded you not to swear and not to resist those who harm you, then, as one who has willingly offered himself to be a servant of Christ, you will apply these commands literally and practically in your life. You will not deviate to the left or to the right, even if you suffer, because you cannot engage in structures that require you to compromise these commands. Thus, if you are asked to enlist in structures such as the military, either in the context of a conflict or as a result of a legal obligation, you will remain faithful to Christ's commands, refusing to participate in violence or take oaths, even at the cost of suffering or loss of rights.

Question 26. Is the verse in 1 John 2:6 being fulfilled in your life? ("Whoever says he remains in Him must walk just as He walked.")

The Lord Jesus' life on earth was the perfect model of a life rooted in the Father's will. Scripture shows us how He lived:

- **He emptied Himself** (Philippians 2:6-7) – He gave up His heavenly glory and came into the world not to do His own will, but the will of the Father.
- **He was humble**—He did not seek honor or recognition, but lived in humility, submissive in all things to the Father.
- **His delight was the fear of the Lord** (Isaiah 11:3) – He lived with deep worship and holy fear of God, seeking to please Him in everything.
- **He became a servant**—He took the form of a servant and lived in complete obedience, serving with humility and love.

✓ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If your life reflects this experience — self-denial, humility, fear of the Lord, and servant-like obedience — it is a sign that you are abiding in Christ, that you are living as He lived, and that the Holy Spirit is working in you.

Living this way, we not only follow the Lord Jesus, but we are gradually transformed into His image and character (2 Corinthians 3:18)—we become gentle, pure, loving, patient, like Him in thought, word, and deed. This likeness of your life to Christ's is a sign of genuine new birth and proves that you are truly His disciple.

✗ **Answer: No — Explanation:** True rebirth involves a transformed life that follows Christ's example. If:

- You don't deny yourself and live only for yourself and your family,
- You are not willing to humble yourself,

- You do not have a holy fear of God and do not seek His will.
- You do not accept and keep His commandments, even when they are difficult, ... then it is a sign that you have not truly been born again. If you do not live as the Lord Jesus lived, it shows that you are not truly in Him and there can be no talk of a genuine new birth.

Those who do not live like Lord Jesus—in self-denial, with a servant's heart, in humility, in fear of the Lord, and in obedience to all His commands—cannot be transformed into His image. And without this transformation, there is no real evidence of abiding in Him.

I encourage you to stop, examine yourself, and deny yourself. Learn to value the fear of the Lord—that attitude of deep worship, respect, and obedience toward God—which was the delight of Lord Jesus (Isaiah 11:3).

This holy fear does not mean terror, but a humble and submissive heart, ready to obey the Father's will in all circumstances. Follow Lord Jesus with obedience, so that the Holy Spirit may change you more and more into His image.

Question 27. Is every choice, action, and plan of yours subject to the goal of being like Christ?

✓ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** A Christian born of the heavenly Father lives with one goal: to become more and more like Christ. All aspects of life—thinking, speaking, relationships, work, leisure—are subordinated to this holy goal: “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.” (Romans 8:29) “For to me, to live is Christ.” (Philippians 1:21)

Being born again produces a radical change of direction: man no longer lives for himself, but to be like Christ. This inner transformation causes all decisions, priorities, and desires to be aligned with the goal of reflecting His character every day.

Living with this purpose means being fascinated by the way Lord Jesus lived and earnestly desiring to live as He did. Lord Jesus' life on earth was the perfect model of a life rooted in the Father's will. Scripture shows us how He lived: He emptied Himself (Philippians 2:6-7). He was humble (Matthew 11:29). His delight was the fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:3). He made Himself a servant (Philippians 2:7). These traits are not just ideals to admire, but realities to be personally appropriated in our relationship with Christ. They are not optional, but essential conditions for the Holy Spirit to work in us the transformation that 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another."

Therefore, they become filters through which we should pass every choice in our lives: Is this decision in the spirit of self-denial? Am I submissive to Christ, as He was to the Father? Do I behave as a servant, as Christ did? Do I find pleasure in obedience? Does my attitude reflect Christ?

Practical example: How do I achieve long-suffering? To acquire this virtue, we can apply the Lord Jesus' teaching on non-resistance, living as He lived: in self-denial, humility, as a servant to His teaching, and in the fear of the Lord, under the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Lord Jesus taught us: “Do not resist the one who is evl. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also” (Matthew 5:39).

This command is not just a moral suggestion, but a call to a life radically different from what the world teaches. The world says, “Fight back! Defend yourself! Get even!” But Christ says, “Do not resist.” To live this teaching, we must live as He lived—in relationship with Him, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

1. Self-denial—I consciously and voluntarily renounce the values, principles, and teachings of the world—those old things that shaped me before I knew Christ. In their place, I choose to receive and submit to the teaching of Christ—a teaching that comes from above, from heaven, and is part of the new life.

Self-denial means intentionally renouncing what I have been taught by the world: to respond with evil, to defend myself, to justify myself. I choose to say, "Lord, I no longer want to live according to the world's thinking. I accept Your teaching, even if it is difficult for my nature." This choice opens my heart to the work of the Holy Spirit, who teaches me a new way—the way of gentleness and patience.

2. Humility – I accept that I need to be taught and corrected. Humility expresses a humble and submissive heart that does not exalt itself, justify itself, or claim rights. It makes me teachable. I do not consider myself entitled to react, but I submit to God's will. Psalm 25:9 says, “He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way”. Humility helps me not to feel offended, but to see injustice as an opportunity to be transformed into His character, not to defend myself.

3. I make myself a slave to Christ's teaching—I don't negotiate with the command, but submit to it. I don't look for excuses or justifications. Christ's teaching becomes my authority. I say, "Lord, if You said not to resist, then I submit. Even if it hurts." This sincere submission allows the Holy Spirit to form in me a patience that is not natural, but supernatural.

4. Fear of the Lord – I obey Him in everything He commands, regardless of the cost. Fear of the Lord is not just an emotion, but complete obedience. This is what Noah did when he “did everything God commanded him” (Genesis 6:22), even if he did not understand. This is what Abraham did when he was willing to sacrifice Isaac because he feared God more than he feared loss (Genesis 22:12). In contrast, Saul said, "I feared the people and obeyed their voice" (1 Samuel 15:24). He chose fear of people over fear of God—and lost everything. The fear of the Lord keeps me on the path of obedience, even when others don't understand or judge me.

❌ **Answer: No (incorrect) — Explanation:** Living without everything being subordinated to the goal of becoming like Christ means:

- Having a life divided between the world and God, oscillating between two kingdoms that cannot coexist in the heart of the born-again believer.
- Keeping areas "untouched" by the will of Christ—whether in thought or behavior—refusing to surrender complete control of your life to Him.
- To continue to set your mind on earthly things instead of seeking the things above, where Christ is (Colossians 3:2), which betrays a heart that has not been fully transformed.
- Living without clear direction, which contradicts the work of the Holy Spirit, who guides the born-again believer toward Christlikeness.

Such a life shows that no real change in priorities has taken place. The Holy Spirit guides the believer daily toward Christlikeness, and the lack of this direction is a sign that the new life has not truly begun.

Call to discipleship—the path to Christlikeness

Being born again is the beginning of spiritual life and the gateway to the Kingdom of God. It is the most important moment in a person's life—the moment when all things become new. As Scripture says: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Through being born again, a person is restored to a relationship with God and receives a new identity: that of a disciple—a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. But this identity is not an end point, but a new beginning—the beginning of a process of transformation whose ultimate goal is to become like Christ in character, thought, and living.

We were created in the image of God, endowed with soul and spirit, with the gifts of thought, reasoning, faith, and choice. These gifts are not only privileges but also responsibilities. God has given them to us to use actively in the process of spiritual maturation.

We are called to cooperate with Christ in the shaping of our character. He offers us grace, and through the Holy Spirit gives us encouragement and guidance, yet He will not do in our place what belongs to our personal responsibility.

God does not force man's will and does not replace free choice with His sovereign intervention. Obedience, discipline, and a sincere desire to be transformed are our part in this process of sanctification.

Therefore, discipleship is not a passive process, but an active journey in which God's grace works together with the will of the born-again man. It is a life lived in obedience, as Lord Jesus lived, with the goal of becoming like Him in character and deed.

This booklet has presented several concrete situations designed to help the reader become aware of his spiritual condition. However, there are many other such situations, which we encourage the reader to analyze in a similar way in order to discern whether his new birth is truly authentic.

New life in Christ involves constantly evaluating every aspect of our lives in the light of God's Word. It is an essential practice for disciples to ask themselves sincerely, "Would the Lord Jesus do this?" If the answer is no, then the disciple, who is called to live like his Teacher, cannot continue in that direction. This attitude is an authentic expression of life in the Kingdom of God, where all things become new and are subject to the reign of Christ.

A personal exhortation

God is calling you to enroll in His school of discipleship. Don't put off this step. Respond to His call with faith and determination. Ask the Lord to give you a living church that lives as the Body of Christ, and a spiritual parent who will feed you spiritually, correct you with love, and encourage you to grow. Only in such a context will you be able to grow "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

If there is no living church near you and you need support or guidance, we are available to help you—you can contact us to receive the help you need to start a truly new life in Christ.

Other materials for spiritual awakening:

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

THE NEW BIRTH

CHURCH—THE BODY OF CHRIST

TRANSFORMED IN THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

LIFE LIVED IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST

THE WEDDING GARMENT

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or by email: contact@unmodifiedword.com

If the first man was deceived by Satan and his sin passed on to all, this does not mean that a mistake crept into God's plan. Everything happened as foreseen in this plan made in eternity, which God carefully worked out down to the smallest details.

God begins this work of restoring the image of Christ in man at the moment of the new birth and has all the power to bring us to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (I am confident that He who began this good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6)

God's plan is not limited to a limited restoration, which consists only of the forgiveness of sins, but provides for the restoration of God's image in us and our elevation to the stature of His Son, as stated in Ephesians 4:11-13